babysitting jobs.

One of the Jennie volunteers, who doubles as a clown, worked with the special education class in a reading incentive program.

Hoover students in kindergarten, first, second, and third grades were invited to participate in all the auxiliary's school education programs. Kindergartners were also invited to a children's health fair held at the hospital.

The students and faculty of Hoover School have in turn done many things for the hospital. Each month the second or third graders make tray favors for the patients in the continued care center and the pediatric department of the hospital. They also have made delightful murals for the hospital corridors and the elevators. Several classes prepared poetry books for the patients in the pediatric department and the continued care center. The school choir and instrumental groups provided entertainment for the auxiliary general meetings.

During National Hospital Week the classes presented patients each day with a gift made by the students and hosted a recognition coffee for Jennie's administrator and Adopt-a-School volunteers.

During Council Bluff's Pride Week in May 1987, student representatives from each class came to the hospital where each child was given a bouquet of helium balloons printed with "Jennie is PROUD of our Hoover School." The bouquet was to be presented by the student to his or her class. Following the meeting, the children and the volunteers formed a kazoo band and marched back to Hoover carrying armfuls of balloons, loudly tooting on the kazoos, and carrying signs that said, "I'm PROUD to be part of the Jennie team!"

As the school year came to a close, Jennie and Hoover experienced yet another unforgettable moment together. The hospital and school were awarded the Golden Apple Award for the outstanding Adopt-a-School program in the city.

In addition to the wonderful public relations the program has generated, this partnership has provided an opportunity for real learning. The students and faculty have learned that a hospital is more than just a place for sickness, it is a wellness resource as well. They've also learned the joy of sharing, as they have provided caring to Jennie patients.

The hospital staff and volunteers have learned more about the school system and the excellent learning experiences being offered to the students of Council Bluffs. They have also seen at close hand the potential of the city's children.

Hospitals wanting to adopt a school can do so easily. The first step is to contact the local public school system. If the Adopt-a-School program is in effect, simply ask to be part of it. If it is not, suggest that the project be started in the area.

The success of a partnership depends on many things, including enthusiasm, lots of creativity, commitment, and honest evaluations of each segment of the program. The most important factor, however, is joint planning sessions between school representatives and the adopting group. It is crucial to identify needs and resources for both parties involved in the adoption if that adoption is to be a real partnership.

—Becky Nash, director of volunteer services, Jennie Edmundson Memorial Hospital, Council Bluffs, IA.

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